



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2019



Playing to turf-tastic reviews!

From Friday night lights to Highland's Marching Trojans, soccer practice and Sunday Pop Warner scrimmages, the turf on the high school football field is performing flawlessly.

Athletic Director Ryan Harrington said in every respect, the turf has met and exceeded every expectation.

"Every time you look, there is somebody using the field," Harrington said. "After years of monitoring the field to ensure our players didn't get hurt, we know now – rain or shine – they're safe."

Instead of spending three days preparing the football field, maintenance crews have been dispatched to augment the soccer field and cross-country course for an upcoming invitational.

"Everyone is eager to play on this turf," he said. "It's softer than grass and because we invested in the green pellets, it does not get hot." ❖

About artificial turf

Decades after artificial turf emerged as an alternative to grass, manufacturers have made synthetic grass everything coaches had hoped for – and more.

Today's turf facilities eliminate uneven playing surfaces prevalent on grass fields that often result in injuries.

At a time when water conservation is top-of-mind and lawn chemicals pose concern, artificial turf eliminates the need for both. From watering and seeding to drainage and repairing, maintenance on a turf facility is a fraction of that of natural grass.



Ryzewski named high school PE teacher of the year

Physical Education teacher Reese Ryzewski is humbled to talk about being named INSHAPE's 2019 High School Teacher of the Year. But given her druthers, she'd much rather discuss the work she is doing to advance Social-Emotional Learning among students in Highland and across Indiana.

INSHAPE — the Indiana Society for Health and Physical Educators — annually awards standout teachers who "...enrich students' lives by putting them on the path to health and physical literacy so that students have every opportunity to live their best lives."

Ryzewski, who serves as department head of Health, PE, FACS and business, explained SEL as a process of developing the self-awareness, self-control and interpersonal skills vital for school, work and life success. The program is a game-changer for teens.

The longtime educator's passion and advocacy for the program that helps counter negative behaviors, such as substance abuse and violence, is just one of the reasons she was named tops in the state.

Ryzewski will receive the award during the organization's annual conference in November. ❖

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SCHOOL BOARD

Patrick Krull, President

Luanne Jurczak, Vice President

Robert Kuva, Secretary

Victor A. Garcia, Member

Carol Green Fraley, Member

The school board meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building, 9145 Kennedy Avenue, Highland.

INFO: Visit hhs.highland.k12.in.us for the latest information, including meeting agendas, school policies, board mission, beliefs and values.

Italian exchange student takes in American culture

Irene Dagradi arrived in Chicago from her home near Milan, Italy just four days before her junior year at Highland High, ready to begin the adventure of her young life.

In short order, the 16-year-old exchange student was immersed in American life — outdoor concerts, everyday-life activities with her American family, studies that for the first time include changing classrooms and instructors throughout the day, a coveted spot on the girls high school volleyball team and, most recently, her very first homecoming dance.

It's been a whirlwind of firsts, not just for Dagradi, but also for her American family — Jennifer and Eric Gluth and their children Jack, Mason and Elise — who has embraced the new addition as she has them.

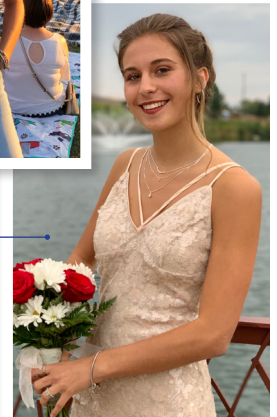
Next up will be an American Thanksgiving followed by a 17th birthday celebration in December. The icing on the cake?

"We are going to spend Black Friday in Chicago," she said. "I've never done this before and I can't wait." ❖

EXPERIENCING MANY FIRSTS ...



A first taste of country with Florida Georgia Line at Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre in Tinley Park.



Taking it all in with Highland High School homecoming pictures at Centennial Park in Munster.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

"It's time for lawmakers to pass legislation that grades students on several factors, not one standardized test"



Students took a different test (ISTEP).

Every year, select schools are chosen to take the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam. NAEP tests fourth- and eighth-graders in all states. Indiana students scored significantly higher compared to the national average. Indiana fourth-graders scored the third highest in math and tied for eighth in reading. The eighth-grade scores show a similar pattern.

It is time Indiana passes legislation grading schools and students on a number of factors instead of one standardized exam.

Highland students are creative, problem solvers, all unique in their own way.

Let's score schools on college and career readiness as well as curriculum and course offerings such as STEM and Fine Arts. Highland offers 13 Advanced Placement courses and nearly 60 concurrent college credits students can accumulate before graduation.

Students should be measured on tests like the Northwest Evaluation Association, which Highland students take at the beginning, middle and end of the year. This assessment shows if students are making true growth and gives instant feedback.

Make no mistake, our hardworking teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals have been reviewing the data from ILEARN and other assessments and will continue to find ways to better instruct our students, just as they have done so in the past.

The School Town of Highland will continue to thrive because of the staff and community commitment to our children.

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

AROUND THE CAMPUS

ANONYMOUS TIPS

Safety is one of our district's top priorities. That's why we're now using SafeSchools Alert, a tip reporting system that allows students, staff, parents and residents to submit safety concerns to our administration five different ways:

App: Search for "SafeSchools Alert" in the App Store to download for free.

Phone: (219) 333-4305

Text: Text your tip to (219) 333-4305

Email: 1834@alert1.us

Web: <http://1834.alert1.us>

Report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism or any safety issue you're concerned about. Tips may be submitted anonymously, too.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The School Town of Highland is always looking for good substitute teachers. This is the perfect job for someone who would like to work a few days a month or work specific days in the week and earn a little extra money. Certified substitutes earn \$80 per day; non-certified substitute teachers earn \$70 per day.

Interested candidates must complete an online application. Visit **highland.k12.in.us**, click on **Personnel** and navigate to **Employment Opportunities**.

INFO: For information on how to register with the district, call Kathy Grzyski at (219) 924-7400.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Highland High School will host a Financial Aid Night for seniors seeking financial help for college.

Visit the school website – **hhs.highland.k12.in.us** – to create your Federal Student Aid ID and download a checklist of items to bring with you, including but not limited to:

- Date of birth as well as your Social Security or Alien Registration number
- Tax returns, W2 documents, bank statements, investment records
- Federal work-study earnings, money received or paid

WHEN: 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.
Wednesday, October 16

WHERE: Highland High School Library



Heart & Sole

Middle school program helps young girls learn about themselves, explore new ideas

After joining the Heart & Sole team in eighth grade, Rory Kosior — now a Highland High School sophomore — is thrilled to return as a junior coach working with middle school girls and one of the coaches who inspired her.

Those coaches include: Jane Kuva, Jodi Aurand, Michelle Schroeder and Junior Coach Grace Aurand, who volunteer two days a week to mentor the team.

An outgrowth of Girls on the Run, Heart & Sole encourages sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders to cultivate empathy, strengthen relationships and embrace the qualities that make them unique.

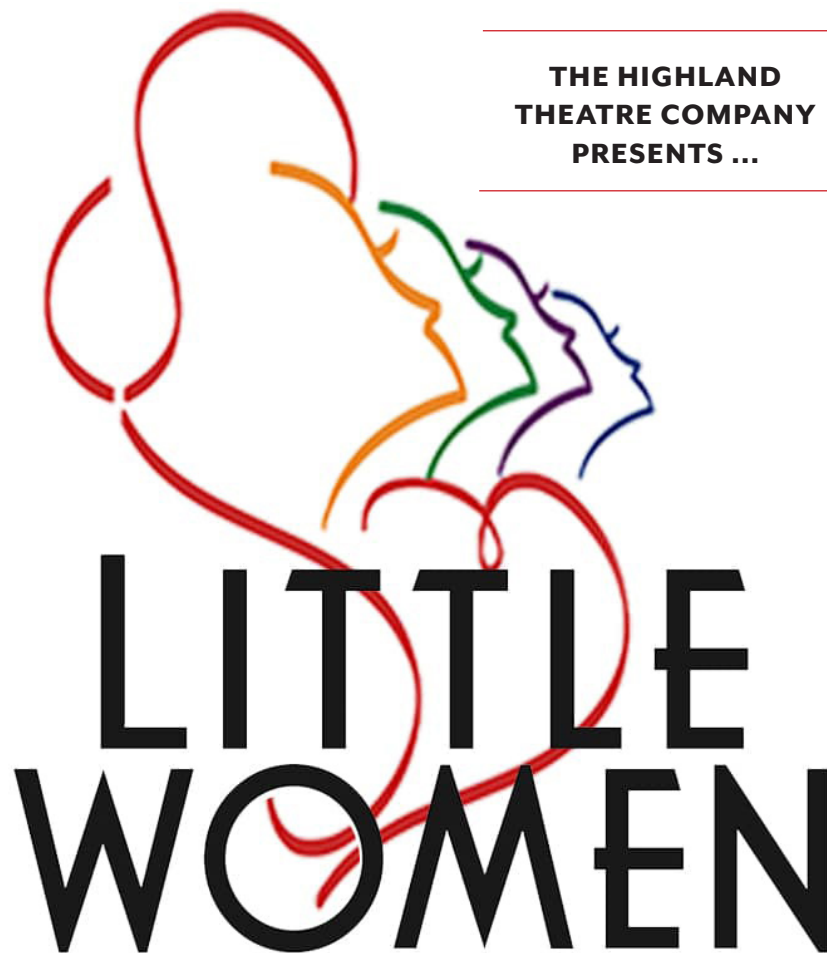
"I love being able to help girls younger than me," Kosior said. "They remind me a lot of myself at their age. They're energetic and want to be involved."

How to get involved

Everyone is invited to sign up for the Wolf Lake (Nov. 9) or LaPorte (Nov. 10) 5Ks to run or volunteer at www.gotrofwnl.org.

Look for information from your child's school or on the website to sign up for the spring session beginning in March.

Girls meet up after school for activities that prepare them to complete a 5K, activate their limitless potential and boldly pursue their dreams.



THE HIGHLAND
THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS ...

LITTLE WOMEN

Journey with the March sisters — Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy — and their beloved Marmee as they grow up amid the hardships of the Civil War beholden to their Aunt March while yearning to stand on their own in this enchanting musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel.

7 PM | FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 22

7 PM | SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 23

2 PM | SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 24

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL'S MONBECK AUDITORIUM

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
www.HTC.BookTix.com

LITTLE WOMEN is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. **INFO:** www.mtishows.com

FALL CONCERTS

Join our talented high school and middle school students for our fall concerts. Admission is free.

ORCHESTRA: 6:30 p.m. **October 10**

CHOIR: 6:30 p.m. **October 15**

BAND: 6:30 p.m. **October 17**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School, 9135 Erie St.

THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Continue your Halloween celebration with Vlad III Dracula as he travels from Transylvania to England, playing the ultimate game of cat-and-mouse with the suitors of the objects of his affection. Watch as they struggle between madness and sanity under the spell of the mystical Count in the Highland Theatre Department's performance of Dracula. Concessions available.

WHEN: 7 p.m. **November 1-2**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School, 9135 Erie St.

TICKETS: \$5 at the door

BECOME A BOOSTER!

The Highland Performing Arts Boosters are a member network of music and theater enthusiasts, parents, students and community partners who support performing arts in Highland.

Help us promote interest in music and theater and provide support and financial backing for the School Town of Highland Performing Arts Programs.

Become a member today!

INFO: Learn more at hpabi.org or on Facebook @highlandperforming-arts. Questions? Call (219) 922-5610, ext. 1047 or email booster-shighlandchoral@gmail.com.

EXTRA YEARBOOKS

Are you a Highland High School graduate and missing a yearbook? Maybe one was lost in a flood or maybe lost in a move and you need to replace yours.

Extra copies going all the way back to the 1960s are available for sale in limited quantities.

INFO: Email Yearbook Adviser Sherri Terrell at sterrell@highland.k12.in.us for more information.